





## CHAPTER 3

### *Outdoor Recreation Supply*

The previous two chapters discussed demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in Indiana. The surveys were the instruments used to assess what people were doing, where they were active, their perceptions of their experiences, and further needs that should be met. The surveys also addressed the needs, supplies and issues from the perspective of outdoor recreation providers.

This chapter addresses the supply of outdoor recreation acreage in Indiana. There are national benchmark standards that we have used as the baseline for our assessments. We have also used State recommendations (as defined in this chapter). The Division of Outdoor Recreation maintains a facilities inventory database to help determine the status of supply in Indiana. We compare the inventory against the standards to help set the priorities for our State.

### *Recreation, Parks and Open Space Guidelines*

In 1983 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) published a classification system and recommendations for park acreages per 1,000 people within each of those systems. The basic guidelines are

- Mini-Park: Service area < ¼ mile radius, 1 acre or less, ¼ to ½ acres/1,000 population
- Neighborhood Park/Playground: Service area ¼ to ½ mile radius with population up to 5,000, 15-plus acres, 1.0 to 2.0 acres/1,000 population
- Community Park: Service area 1 to 2 mile radius (several neighborhoods), 25-plus acres, 5.0 to 8.0 acres/1,000 population
- Regional/Metropolitan Park: Service area one hour driving time (several

communities), 200-plus acres, 5.0 to 10.0 acres/1,000 population

- Regional Park Reserve: Service area 1 hour driving time (several communities, 1,000-plus acres (80% of land reserved for natural resources management and conservation, 20% for recreational development), Variable acres/1,000 population
- Linear Park, Special Use Areas, and Conservancy Areas: No applicable standards

(Lancaster [Ed.], National Recreation and Park Association, 1983)

The NRPA guidelines have remained the golden standard for baseline recommendations. NRPA has always said that the recommendations should guide outdoor recreation planning and should remain flexible. In 1996 the NRPA began to shift away from this population ratio method to a level-of-service system of recommendations. Level-of-service (LOS) is a strategic planning process that considers the demand for recreation opportunities within the community, current resources available, and opinions and views of the population. We rely more heavily on the use of an LOS system to assess the outdoor recreation needs in Indiana; we also refer back to the 1983 guidelines.

The surveys presented in this SCORP are the major means of assessing the demand for outdoor recreation in Indiana. Trends are also assessed by comparing the current survey responses to those from previous surveys. Changes or lack of changes in trends give a good idea of which outdoor recreation activities will remain consistent for extended periods of time and which are fads or have small user populations. For example, walking, hiking and jogging have remained the top outdoor recreation activities for the past three SCORPs (i.e., 15 years); remote control devices have never been in the top 10 respondent activities (see Table 9). This is not meant to imply that activities that ranked lower on the partici-





1979	1989	1995	2000	2005
Picnicking	Picnicking	Hiking/walking/ jogging	Hiking/walking/ jogging	Hiking/walking/ jogging
Fishing	Pleasure driving	Picnicking	Fairs/festivals	Fairs/festivals
Swimming	Walking	Swimming	Fishing	Swimming/SCUBA/ snorkeling
Hiking	Swimming	Camping	Camping	Nature observation/ photography
Biking	Fishing	Fishing/hunting	Picnicking	Camping
Play fields	Bicycling	Biking	Swimming/SCUBA/ snorkeling	Fishing
Camping	Camping	Boating	Nature observation/ photography	Picnicking
Boating	Nature observation	Nature observation	Playground use	Bicycling
Playgrounds	Motor boating	Playground use	Bicycling	Motorized vehicle use
	Golf		Boating/ water skiing/ personal watercraft	Boating/ water skiing/ personal watercraft
				Court sports

Table 9. Activity trends in Indiana, top 10 ranked in order  
(Outdoor Recreation Participation Surveys, 1979-2003)

pation survey scale are not important and should not be considered. It may be that a community has a very active user group (e.g., a remote control airplane club) that would be an excellent partner in resource development. The needs of such a group should be addressed. However, the most popular trends tend to have the highest user population, which typically translates into the greatest supply of resources.

### *Facilities Inventory*

The Division of Outdoor Recreation maintains a facilities inventory database that reflects the current supply of outdoor recreation opportunities in the State. The inventory is updated regularly through on-site inspections, self-report data from municipalities, and public information (e.g., State school directories). The Indiana Facilities Inventory includes recreational facilities owned and man-

aged by both public and private sectors. The inventory can be divided by area type: private, commercial, public, municipal, township, county, state, federal and school corporation.

By comparing demands for outdoor recreation opportunities and the supplies currently available, the Division of Outdoor Recreation is able to determine standards for acres per 1,000 people for Indiana. Standards currently in place are:

- Counties: 20 acres per 1,000 people (0.02 acre per person) of public local recreation acres (i.e., owned by township, municipal, county, and privately owned but open for public use)
- Indiana Regions: 35 acres per 1,000 people (0.035 acre per person) of public regional recreation acres (i.e., owned by State or federal entities)
- State: 55 acres per 1,000 people (0.055 acre per person) of public



recreation acres (i.e., a total of all acres in the above categories)

These standards are presented a bit differently than the NRPA standards; they are presented by geographic location (i.e., county, Indiana region, or State) versus by type of park system. Determination of acreage amounts is based on publicly owned lands; therefore, it excludes private (not open for public use) and commercial acreages. School corporation acreage has also been excluded because we do not have a complete and current assessment of schools that allow public use of their properties versus those that do not. Inclusion of school properties could skew the data and under-represent or over-represent outdoor recreation facilities by a substantial margin.

We also assess supply of local, regional and total acres at the county and Indiana region levels to help determine areas with the highest need. To determine the neediest counties, we include the population growth (compared to the State average population growth) and the most recent inventory of total recreation acres available within the county.

### **Local Outdoor Recreation Supply – Township, Municipal, County, and Privately owned but open for public use**

The NRPA/Indiana standard of 20 acres of local public outdoor recreation opportunities per 1,000 people is used to determine which areas have an adequate supply or a deficit of smaller scale outdoor recreation acres (e.g., city or municipal parks rather than state parks).

#### ***County Level***

Assessing local outdoor recreation acres at the county level may be the best way to identify counties that need more assistance in improving their outdoor recreation supply. Some of these counties may need additional funding, advocacy, organization,

or community resources, or there may be an abundance of State or federally owned properties in the county leading citizens to believe that local outdoor recreation is not a priority. Whatever the reason, data analysis indicates that an overwhelming number of counties lack local outdoor recreation acreage.

Table 10 shows that 22 of Indiana's 92 counties have an adequate supply of local outdoor recreation acres. Column 6 of Table 10 (Difference-Local Acres) indicates the acres greater than (positive number) or less than (negative number) the recommendations. For example, the recommendation for Adams County, with a population of 33,849 people, is 677 acres of local recreation opportunity; however, Adams has 312 acres, a deficit of 365 acres.

#### ***Indiana Region Level***

The State was divided into 15 planning regions in the late 1960s or early 1970s through the Indiana Department of Planning. Three of the regions (1, 3, and 13) were subdivided into two sections (A and B). Although many of the original regional planning commissions no longer exist, the DOR maintains the regional boundaries for our purposes. This helps to assess trends, developments and losses through time. It also allows for easier study and assessment of supply and demand. See Appendix F for a complete list of counties within each region.

The State is also divided into three major regions based on its physiography (physical description of Earth's surface). These major regions include:

- The Northern Lake and Moraine region
- The Central Drift region
- The Southern Upland and Lowland region





Indiana county - local acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/1000	Current	Difference
1	Adams	33,849.00	676.98	312.00	(364.98)
2	Allen	344,006.00	6,880.12	4,691.23	(2188.89)
3	Bartholomew	73,540.00	1,470.80	1,236.00	(234.80)
4	Benton	9,039.00	180.78	57.00	(123.78)
5	Blackford	13,849.00	276.98	91.00	(185.98)
6	Boone	52,061.00	1,041.22	597.55	(443.67)
7	Brown	15,154.00	303.08	76.00	(227.08)
8	Carroll	20,426.00	408.52	119.50	(289.02)
9	Cass	40,130.00	802.60	900.57	97.97
10	Clark	101,592.00	2,031.84	779.20	(1252.64)
11	Clay	27,142.00	542.84	284.00	(258.84)
12	Clinton	34,091.00	681.82	242.00	(439.82)
13	Crawford	11,216.00	224.32	33.00	(191.32)
14	Daviess	30,466.00	609.32	1,070.51	461.19
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	981.64	375.00	(606.64)
16	Decatur	25,184.00	503.68	235.34	(268.34)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	833.18	285.00	(548.18)
18	Delaware	116,362.00	2,327.24	498.11	(1829.13)
19	Dubois	40,858.00	817.16	1,306.00	488.84
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	3,907.24	3,240.45	(666.79)
21	Fayette	24,885.00	497.70	112.00	(385.70)
22	Floyd	71,997.00	1,439.94	675.00	(764.94)
23	Fountain	17,462.00	349.24	432.50	83.26
24	Franklin	23,085.00	461.70	312.00	(149.70)
25	Fulton	20,665.00	413.30	306.70	(106.60)
26	Gibson	33,408.00	668.16	370.00	(298.16)
27	Grant	70,557.00	1,411.14	338.57	(1072.57)
28	Greene	33,479.00	669.58	680.00	10.42
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	4,813.70	2,911.93	(1901.77)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	1,262.76	297.20	(965.56)
31	Harrison	36,827.00	736.54	867.13	130.59
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	2,549.66	1,112.73	(1436.93)
33	Henry	47,244.00	944.88	1,334.00	389.12
34	Howard	84,977.00	1,699.54	415.91	(1283.63)
35	Huntington	38,236.00	764.72	322.13	(442.59)
36	Jackson	42,237.00	844.74	269.65	(575.09)
37	Jasper	31,876.00	637.52	189.49	(448.03)
38	Jay	21,606.00	432.12	237.10	(195.02)
39	Jefferson	32,430.00	648.60	309.00	(339.60)
40	Jennings	28,427.00	568.54	343.10	(225.44)
41	Johnson	128,436.00	2,568.72	1,056.50	(1512.22)
42	Knox	38,366.00	767.32	787.25	19.93
43	Kosciusko	76,072.00	1,521.44	406.95	(1114.49)
44	LaGrange	36,875.00	737.50	711.50	(26.00)
45	Lake	493,297.00	9,865.94	10,637.39	771.45

Table 10: County recreation acres-local  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005



Indiana county - local acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/1000	Current	Difference
46	LaPorte	110,512.00	2,210.24	2,150.20	(60.04)
47	Lawrence	46,403.00	928.06	857.00	(71.06)
48	Madison	130,412.00	2,608.24	1,283.06	(1325.18)
49	Marion	863,133.00	17,262.66	10,986.74	(6275.92)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	938.90	323.25	(615.65)
51	Martin	10,386.00	207.72	1,171.03	963.31
52	Miami	35,620.00	712.40	261.85	(450.55)
53	Monroe	121,407.00	2,428.14	4,610.59	2182.45
54	Montgomery	38,239.00	764.78	907.08	142.30
55	Morgan	69,778.00	1,395.56	289.00	(1106.56)
56	Newton	14,456.00	289.12	115.00	(174.12)
57	Noble	47,448.00	948.96	808.60	(140.36)
58	Ohio	5,874.00	117.48	55.00	(62.48)
59	Orange	19,770.00	395.40	434.00	38.60
60	Owen	22,823.00	456.46	68.90	(387.56)
61	Parke	17,362.00	347.24	657.00	309.76
62	Perry	19,032.00	380.64	152.30	(228.34)
63	Pike	12,766.00	255.32	469.28	213.96
64	Porter	157,772.00	3,155.44	1,820.60	(1334.84)
65	Posey	26,852.00	537.04	218.81	(318.23)
66	Pulaski	13,783.00	275.66	78.50	(197.16)
67	Putnam	36,957.00	739.14	98.00	(641.14)
68	Randolph	26,684.00	533.68	533.83	0.15
69	Ripley	27,710.00	554.20	596.09	41.89
70	Rush	17,823.00	356.46	34.25	(322.21)
71	St. Joseph	266,160.00	5,323.20	500.33	(4822.87)
72	Scott	23,820.00	476.40	3,779.49	3303.09
73	Shelby	43,766.00	875.32	69.20	(806.12)
74	Spencer	20,528.00	410.56	186.08	(224.48)
75	Starke	22,933.00	458.66	211.50	(247.16)
76	Steuben	33,773.00	675.46	602.03	(73.43)
77	Sullivan	21,763.00	435.26	2,109.00	1673.74
78	Switzerland	9,718.00	194.36	70.00	(124.36)
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	3,077.50	2,765.72	(311.78)
80	Tipton	16,385.00	327.70	181.57	(146.13)
81	Union	7,208.00	144.16	12.00	(132.16)
82	Vanderburgh	173,187.00	3,463.74	3,171.31	(292.43)
83	Vermillion	16,562.00	331.24	179.90	(151.34)
84	Vigo	102,592.00	2,051.84	2,252.33	200.49
85	Wabash	33,843.00	676.86	179.50	(497.36)
86	Warren	8,785.00	175.70	46.50	(129.20)
87	Warrick	56,362.00	1,127.24	2,052.59	925.35
88	Washington	27,885.00	557.70	968.87	411.17
89	Wayne	69,192.00	1,383.84	1,233.53	(150.31)
90	Wells	28,085.00	561.70	176.03	(385.67)
91	White	24,463.00	489.26	126.00	(363.26)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	646.46	309.50	(336.96)

Table 10, continued



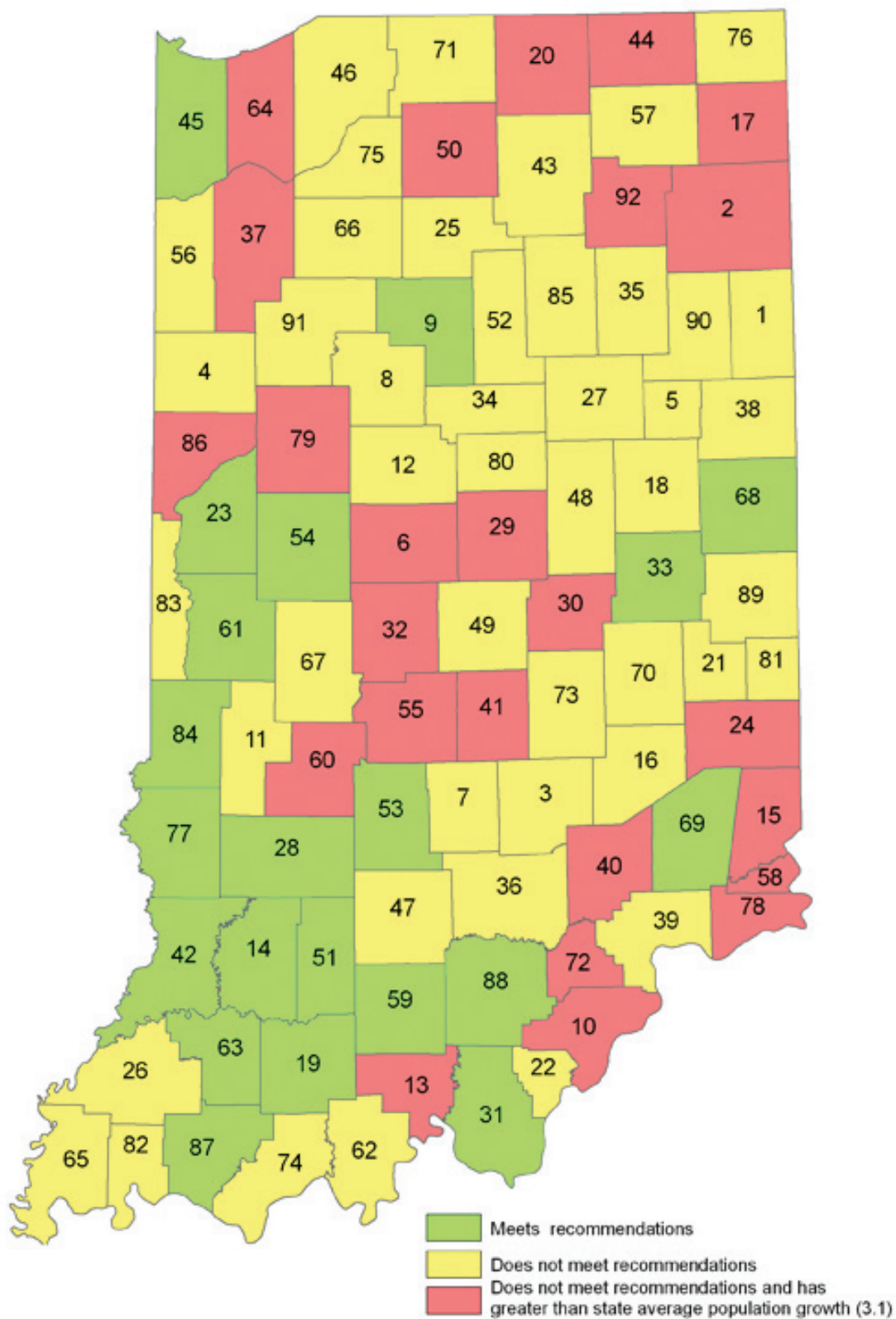


Figure 7. County outdoor recreation – local Recommendation – 20 acres/1000 persons





Indiana region - local acres				
Region	PPN 2005*	Recommended 20 a/ 1000	Current	Difference
1A	761,581.00	15,231.62	14,608.19	(623.43)
1B	107,511.00	2,150.22	720.49	(1,429.73)
2	584,539.00	11,690.78	7,750.14	(3,940.64)
3A	188,655.00	3,773.10	2,753.76	(1,019.34)
3B	447,599.00	8,951.98	5,464.26	(3,487.72)
4	281,917.00	5,638.34	4,570.30	(1,068.04)
5	231,620.00	4,632.40	2,246.10	(2,386.30)
6	426,714.00	8,534.28	4,315.67	(4,218.61)
7	222,378.00	4,447.56	5,580.23	1,132.67
8	1,588,480.00	31,769.60	17,437.73	(14,331.87)
9	119,108.00	2,382.16	1,391.78	(990.38)
10	144,230.00	2,884.60	4,679.49	1,794.89
11	156,115.00	3,122.30	1,816.99	(1,305.31)
12	176,326.00	3,526.52	2,060.19	(1,466.33)
13A	159,100.00	3,182.00	4,565.79	1,383.79
13B	289,809.00	5,796.18	5,812.71	16.53
14	262,121.00	5,242.42	3,359.40	(1,883.02)
15	124,170.00	2,483.40	2,894.91	411.51

Table 11. Indiana region outdoor recreation acres-local

\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Each of the 15 planning regions has similar topographical elements that help divide them into areas more suited for traditional outdoor recreation activities and sites or areas that may require non-traditional, more innovative ideas. Currently, 13 regions do not have an adequate supply of local outdoor recreation acres (See Table 11).

### State Level

With such a deficit of local outdoor recreation acres at both the county and regional level, it follows that the State as a whole does not meet NRPA/Indiana recommendations of 20 acres per 1,000 people. The

State has a total population of 6,271,973 people and a current total of 92,028 local recreation acres. NRPA/Indiana recommends a total of 125,439 local recreation acres; therefore, Indiana is 33,411 acres below recommended acreage for local outdoor recreation opportunities.

### Regional Outdoor Recreation Supply – State and Federal

In this section “Indiana region” refers to geographic location within the State (e.g., Region 1A) and “region or regional outdoor recreation” refers to supply of recreation opportunities (i.e., State or federally owned properties).



Indiana county - regional acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 35 a/ 1000	Current	Difference
1	Adams	33,849.00	1,184.72	547.42	(637.30)
2	Allen	344,006.00	12,040.21	2.50	(12,037.71)
3	Bartholomew	73,540.00	2,573.90	881.85	(1,692.05)
4	Benton	9,039.00	316.37	1,715.00	1,398.64
5	Blackford	13,849.00	484.72	0.00	(484.72)
6	Boone	52,061.00	1,822.14	28.38	(1,793.76)
7	Brown	15,154.00	530.39	67,950.30	67,419.91
8	Carroll	20,426.00	714.91	269.37	(445.54)
9	Cass	40,130.00	1,404.55	2.00	(1,402.55)
10	Clark	101,592.00	3,555.72	28,998.24	25,442.52
11	Clay	27,142.00	949.97	2,652.32	1,702.35
12	Clinton	34,091.00	1,193.19	30.79	(1,162.39)
13	Crawford	11,216.00	392.56	43,734.05	43,341.49
14	Daviess	30,466.00	1,066.31	8,150.33	7,084.02
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	1,717.87	47.20	(1,670.67)
16	Decatur	25,184.00	881.44	36.08	(845.36)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	1,458.07	9.40	(1,448.67)
18	Delaware	116,362.00	4,072.67	0.00	(4,072.67)
19	Dubois	40,858.00	1,430.03	14,204.38	12,774.35
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	6,837.67	444.95	(6,392.72)
21	Fayette	24,885.00	870.98	108.00	(762.98)
22	Floyd	71,997.00	2,519.90	2,068.32	(451.58)
23	Fountain	17,462.00	611.17	575.24	(35.93)
24	Franklin	23,085.00	807.98	9,640.96	8,832.98
25	Fulton	20,665.00	723.28	1,613.44	890.17
26	Gibson	33,408.00	1,169.28	3,194.10	2,024.82
27	Grant	70,557.00	2,469.50	1,619.00	(850.50)
28	Greene	33,479.00	1,171.77	8,455.78	7,284.02
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	8,423.98	1.00	(8,422.98)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	2,209.83	40.00	(2,169.83)
31	Harrison	36,827.00	1,288.95	15,441.73	14,152.79
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	4,461.91	0.00	(4,461.91)
33	Henry	47,244.00	1,653.54	3,784.54	2,131.00
34	Howard	84,977.00	2,974.20	80.00	(2,894.20)
35	Huntington	38,236.00	1,338.26	16,923.89	15,585.63
36	Jackson	42,237.00	1,478.30	35,489.73	34,011.44
37	Jasper	31,876.00	1,115.66	6,287.49	5,171.83
38	Jay	21,606.00	756.21	482.28	(273.93)
39	Jefferson	32,430.00	1,135.05	24,382.26	23,247.21
40	Jennings	28,427.00	994.95	18,156.24	17,161.30
41	Johnson	128,436.00	4,495.26	5,755.71	1,260.45
42	Knox	38,366.00	1,342.81	418.52	(924.29)
43	Kosciusko	76,072.00	2,662.52	3,877.03	1,214.51
44	LaGrange	36,875.00	1,290.63	9,907.91	8,617.29
45	Lake	493,297.00	17,265.40	5,937.39	(11,328.00)

Table 12. County outdoor recreation acres-regional  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005





Indiana county - regional acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended		Difference
			35 a/ 1000	Current	
46	LaPorte	110,512.00	3,867.92	11,788.83	7,920.91
47	Lawrence	46,403.00	1,624.11	17,631.12	16,007.02
48	Madison	130,412.00	4,564.42	303.69	(4,260.73)
49	Marion	863,133.00	30,209.66	2,533.54	(27,676.12)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	1,643.08	1,124.85	(518.23)
51	Martin	10,386.00	363.51	79,769.13	79,405.62
52	Miami	35,620.00	1,246.70	6,441.68	5,194.98
53	Monroe	121,407.00	4,249.25	69,111.49	64,862.24
54	Montgomery	38,239.00	1,338.37	2,450.30	1,111.94
55	Morgan	69,778.00	2,442.23	6,851.76	4,409.53
56	Newton	14,456.00	505.96	14,206.46	13,700.50
57	Noble	47,448.00	1,660.68	4,883.50	3,222.82
58	Ohio	5,874.00	205.59	22.29	(183.30)
59	Orange	19,770.00	691.95	51,011.02	50,319.07
60	Owen	22,823.00	798.81	12,315.31	11,516.51
61	Parke	17,362.00	607.67	7,827.62	7,219.95
62	Perry	19,032.00	666.12	70,900.42	70,234.30
63	Pike	12,766.00	446.81	14,851.35	14,404.54
64	Porter	157,772.00	5,522.02	15,739.68	10,217.66
65	Posey	26,852.00	939.82	10,931.49	9,991.67
66	Pulaski	13,783.00	482.41	9,695.00	9,212.59
67	Putnam	36,957.00	1,293.50	7,289.38	5,995.88
68	Randolph	26,684.00	933.94	432.61	(501.33)
69	Ripley	27,710.00	969.85	33,406.82	32,436.97
70	Rush	17,823.00	623.81	0.00	(623.81)
71	St. Joseph	266,160.00	9,315.60	3,654.03	(5,661.57)
72	Scott	23,820.00	833.70	3,903.59	3,069.89
73	Shelby	43,766.00	1,531.81	9,802.50	8,270.69
74	Spencer	20,528.00	718.48	5.50	(712.98)
75	Starke	22,933.00	802.66	4,402.60	3,599.95
76	Steuben	33,773.00	1,182.06	5,796.26	4,614.21
77	Sullivan	21,763.00	761.71	20,340.48	19,578.77
78	Switzerland	9,718.00	340.13	1,372.03	1,031.90
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	5,385.63	3,184.47	(2,201.16)
80	Tipton	16,385.00	573.48	0.00	(573.48)
81	Union	7,208.00	252.28	9,406.77	9,154.49
82	Vanderburgh	173,187.00	6,061.55	617.12	(5,444.43)
83	Vermillion	16,562.00	579.67	5,002.02	4,422.35
84	Vigo	102,592.00	3,590.72	306.62	(3,284.10)
85	Wabash	33,843.00	1,184.51	17,241.02	16,056.51
86	Warren	8,785.00	307.48	0.00	(307.48)
87	Warrick	56,362.00	1,972.67	6,793.02	4,820.35
88	Washington	27,885.00	975.98	15,620.31	14,644.33
89	Wayne	69,192.00	2,421.72	24.53	(2,397.19)
90	Wells	28,085.00	982.98	2,547.47	1,564.50
91	White	24,463.00	856.21	476.34	(379.87)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	1,131.31	680.06	(451.24)

Table 12, continued



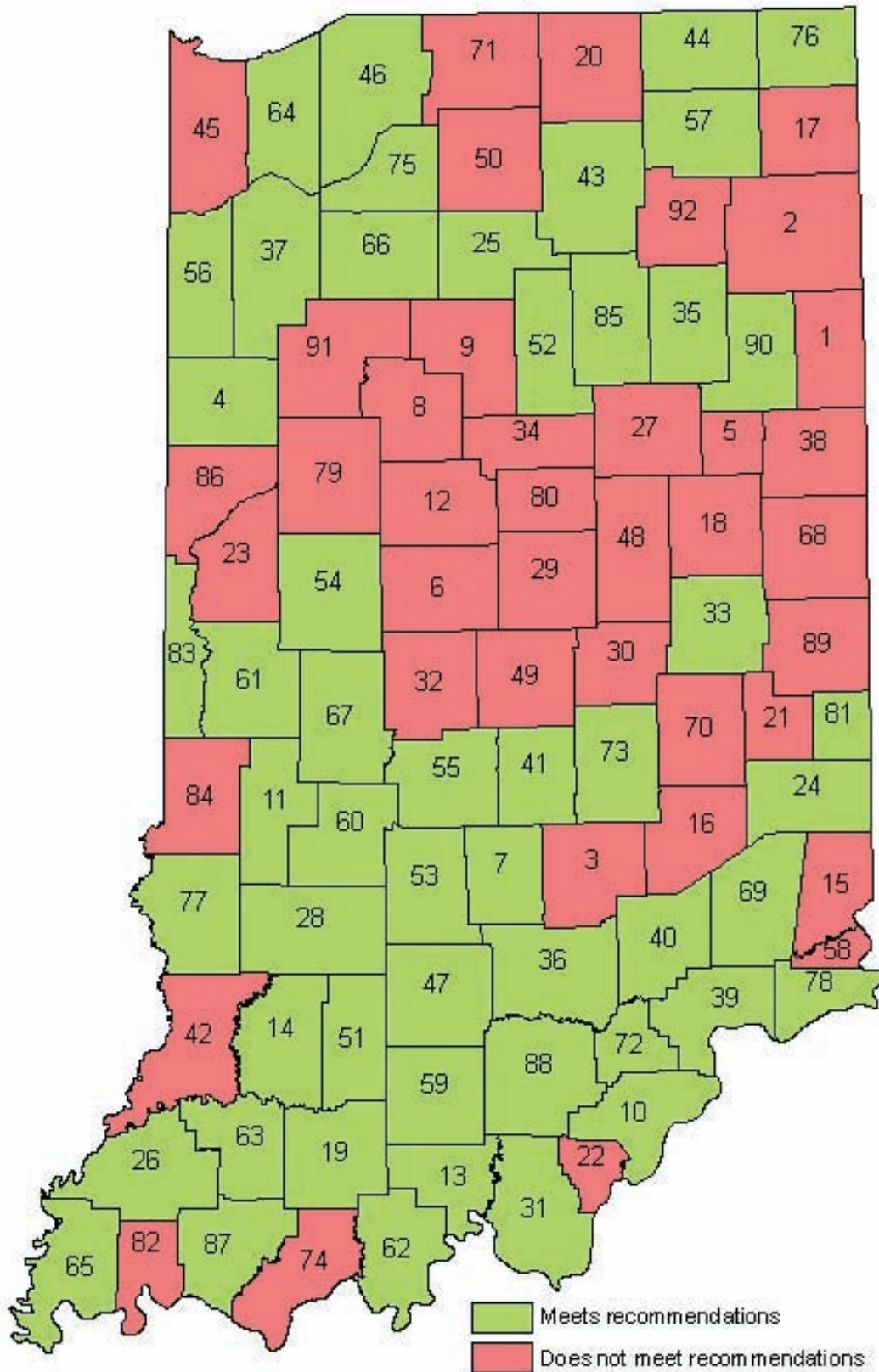


Figure 8. County outdoor recreation – regional Recommendation – 35 acres/1000 persons



Indiana region - regional acres				
Region	PPN 2005*	Recommended 35 a/1000	Current	Difference
1A	761,581.00	26,655.34	33,466.00	6,810.67
1B	107,511.00	3,762.89	35,067.00	31,304.12
2	584,539.00	20,458.87	9,350.00	(11,108.87)
3A	188,655.00	6,602.93	38,191.00	31,588.08
3B	447,599.00	15,665.97	3,107.00	(12,558.97)
4	281,917.00	9,867.10	8,225.00	(1,642.10)
5	231,620.00	8,106.70	25,378.00	17,271.30
6	426,714.00	14,934.99	6,622.00	(8,312.99)
7	222,378.00	7,783.23	43,418.00	35,634.77
8	1,588,480.00	55,596.80	15,216.00	(40,380.80)
9	119,108.00	4,168.78	9,539.00	5,370.22
10	144,230.00	5,048.05	81,426.00	76,377.95
11	156,115.00	5,464.03	104,358.00	98,893.98
12	176,326.00	6,171.41	87,027.00	80,855.59
13A	159,100.00	5,568.50	114,425.00	108,856.50
13B	289,809.00	10,143.32	21,536.00	11,392.69
14	262,121.00	9,174.24	71,931.00	62,756.77
15	124,170.00	4,345.95	198,355.00	194,009.05

Table 13. Indiana region outdoor recreation acres-regional  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

### County Level

The DOR assesses regional outdoor recreation acres at all levels (county, Indiana region, and State). County level assessment identifies specific areas that are lacking in supply and do not meet the NRPA/Indiana recommendations of 35 acres of regional outdoor recreation opportunities per 1,000 people. This also helps the State make informed decisions concerning land acquisition and future outdoor recreation development. Table 12 shows that 52 counties have an adequate supply of regional outdoor recreation acres.

### Indiana Region Level

Three of the 15 Indiana regions are subdivided into two sections (1A, 1B,

3A, 3B, 13A, and 13B) for a total of 18 planning sections. This is important in analysis of supply of regional outdoor recreation acres because Region 3A has an adequate supply; Region 3B does not. One very significant difference between these sections is Fort Wayne with its population of more than 220,000 and the industrial and agricultural base within the surrounding counties.

There are 13 Indiana planning sections (10 ½ regions) that meet the recommendation of 35 acres of regional outdoor recreation acres per 1,000 people (See Table 13). It is not surprising that Indiana planning sections that do not meet the standards (2, 3B, 4, 6, 8) are in the northern half of the State. Southern Indiana regions, with their vast supply of woodlands and undeveloped acres, lend themselves to development of traditional





Indiana county - total acres					
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Recommended 55 a/ 1000	Current	Difference
1	Adams	33,849.00	1,861.70	859.42	(1,002.28)
2	Allen	344,006.00	18,920.33	4,693.73	(14,226.60)
3	Bartholomew	73,540.00	4,044.70	2,117.85	(1,926.85)
4	Benton	9,039.00	497.15	1,772.00	1,274.86
5	Blackford	13,849.00	761.70	91.00	(670.70)
6	Boone	52,061.00	2,863.36	625.93	(2,237.43)
7	Brown	15,154.00	833.47	68,026.30	67,192.83
8	Carroll	20,426.00	1,123.43	388.87	(734.56)
9	Cass	40,130.00	2,207.15	902.57	(1,304.58)
10	Clark	101,592.00	5,587.56	29,777.44	24,189.88
11	Clay	27,142.00	1,492.81	2,936.32	1,443.51
12	Clinton	34,091.00	1,875.01	272.79	(1,602.21)
13	Crawford	11,216.00	616.88	43,767.05	43,150.17
14	Daviess	30,466.00	1,675.63	9,220.84	7,545.21
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	2,699.51	422.20	(2,277.31)
16	Decatur	25,184.00	1,385.12	271.42	(1,113.70)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	2,291.25	294.40	(1,996.85)
18	Delaware	116,362.00	6,399.91	498.11	(5,901.80)
19	Dubois	40,858.00	2,247.19	15,510.38	13,263.19
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	10,744.91	3,685.40	(7,059.51)
21	Fayette	24,885.00	1,368.68	220.00	(1,148.68)
22	Floyd	71,997.00	3,959.84	2,743.32	(1,216.52)
23	Fountain	17,462.00	960.41	1,007.74	47.33
24	Franklin	23,085.00	1,269.68	9,952.96	8,683.28
25	Fulton	20,665.00	1,136.58	1,920.14	783.56
26	Gibson	33,408.00	1,837.44	3,564.10	1,726.66
27	Grant	70,557.00	3,880.64	1,957.57	(1,923.07)
28	Greene	33,479.00	1,841.35	9,135.78	7,294.44
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	13,237.68	2,912.93	(10,324.74)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	3,472.59	337.20	(3,135.39)
31	Harrison	36,827.00	2,025.49	16,308.86	14,283.38
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	7,011.57	1,112.73	(5,898.83)
33	Henry	47,244.00	2,598.42	5,118.54	2,520.12
34	Howard	84,977.00	4,673.74	495.91	(4,177.82)
35	Huntington	38,236.00	2,102.98	17,246.02	15,143.04
36	Jackson	42,237.00	2,323.04	35,759.38	33,436.35
37	Jasper	31,876.00	1,753.18	6,476.98	4,723.80
38	Jay	21,606.00	1,188.33	719.38	(468.95)
39	Jefferson	32,430.00	1,783.65	24,691.26	22,907.61
40	Jennings	28,427.00	1,563.49	18,499.34	16,935.86
41	Johnson	128,436.00	7,063.98	6,812.21	(251.77)
42	Knox	38,366.00	2,110.13	1,205.77	(904.36)
43	Kosciusko	76,072.00	4,183.96	4,283.98	100.02
44	LaGrange	36,875.00	2,028.13	10,619.41	8,591.29
45	Lake	493,297.00	27,131.34	16,574.78	(10,556.55)

Table 14. County outdoor recreation acres-total  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005





Indiana county - total acres					
Number	Name	Recommended		Current	Difference
		PPN 2005*	55 a/ 1000		
46	LaPorte	110,512.00	6,078.16	13,939.03	7,860.87
47	Lawrence	46,403.00	2,552.17	18,488.12	15,935.96
48	Madison	130,412.00	7,172.66	1,586.75	(5,585.91)
49	Marion	863,133.00	47,472.32	13,520.28	(33,952.04)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	2,581.98	1,448.10	(1,133.88)
51	Martin	10,386.00	571.23	80,940.16	80,368.93
52	Miami	35,620.00	1,959.10	6,703.53	4,744.43
53	Monroe	121,407.00	6,677.39	73,722.08	67,044.69
54	Montgomery	38,239.00	2,103.15	3,357.38	1,254.23
55	Morgan	69,778.00	3,837.79	7,140.76	3,302.97
56	Newton	14,456.00	795.08	14,321.46	13,526.38
57	Noble	47,448.00	2,609.64	5,692.10	3,082.46
58	Ohio	5,874.00	323.07	77.29	(245.78)
59	Orange	19,770.00	1,087.35	51,445.02	50,357.67
60	Owen	22,823.00	1,255.27	12,384.21	11,128.95
61	Parke	17,362.00	954.91	8,484.62	7,529.71
62	Perry	19,032.00	1,046.76	71,052.72	70,005.96
63	Pike	12,766.00	702.13	15,320.63	14,618.50
64	Porter	157,772.00	8,677.46	17,560.28	8,882.82
65	Posey	26,852.00	1,476.86	11,150.30	9,673.44
66	Pulaski	13,783.00	758.07	9,773.50	9,015.43
67	Putnam	36,957.00	2,032.64	7,387.38	5,354.74
68	Randolph	26,684.00	1,467.62	966.44	(501.18)
69	Ripley	27,710.00	1,524.05	34,002.91	32,478.86
70	Rush	17,823.00	980.27	34.25	(946.02)
71	St. Joseph	266,160.00	14,638.80	4,154.36	(10,484.44)
72	Scott	23,820.00	1,310.10	7,683.08	6,372.98
73	Shelby	43,766.00	2,407.13	9,871.70	7,464.57
74	Spencer	20,528.00	1,129.04	191.58	(937.46)
75	Starke	22,933.00	1,261.32	4,614.10	3,352.79
76	Steuben	33,773.00	1,857.52	6,398.30	4,540.78
77	Sullivan	21,763.00	1,196.97	22,449.48	21,252.51
78	Switzerland	9,718.00	534.49	1,442.03	907.54
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	8,463.13	5,950.19	(2,512.93)
80	Tipton	16,385.00	901.18	181.57	(719.61)
81	Union	7,208.00	396.44	9,418.77	9,022.33
82	Vanderburgh	173,187.00	9,525.29	3,788.43	(5,736.86)
83	Vermillion	16,562.00	910.91	5,181.92	4,271.01
84	Vigo	102,592.00	5,642.56	2,558.95	(3,083.61)
85	Wabash	33,843.00	1,861.37	17,420.52	15,559.15
86	Warren	8,785.00	483.18	46.50	(436.68)
87	Warrick	56,362.00	3,099.91	8,845.61	5,745.70
88	Washington	27,885.00	1,533.68	16,589.18	15,055.50
89	Wayne	69,192.00	3,805.56	1,258.06	(2,547.50)
90	Wells	28,085.00	1,544.68	2,723.50	1,178.82
91	White	24,463.00	1,345.47	602.34	(743.13)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	1,777.77	989.56	(788.20)

Table 14, continued



outdoor recreation opportunities. Northern Indiana regions are traditional agricultural areas. Unfortunately, this unbalanced distribution of regional outdoor recreation acres leaves a large gap in opportunity between ends of the State. This deficit in opportunity and tremendous difference in physiography opens the door to innovative thinking and development of culturally specific outdoor recreation opportunities in deficit regions.

### *State Level*

Indiana meets the NRPA/Indiana state level recommendation of 35 acres of regional outdoor recreation acres per 1,000 people. Currently there are 906,641 acres for regional outdoor recreation. The recommended acreage is 219,519; therefore, Indiana is 687,122 acres above the recommendation.

### **Total Outdoor Recreation Supply-Local and Regional**

NRPA/Indiana guidelines recommend 55 acres per 1,000 persons of total outdoor recreation acres. This acreage includes all township, municipal, county, privately owned but open for public use, State, and federal lands. Once again, total acres are assessed at the county, Indiana region and State levels.

### *County Level*

Currently, 52 counties meet recommendations for total outdoor recreation acreage (See Table 14). Of those 52 counties, 16 have an adequate supply of both local and regional outdoor recreation acres. The 16 counties are:

- Daviess
- Dubois
- Greene
- Harrison
- Henry
- Martin
- Monroe

- Montgomery
- Orange
- Parke
- Pike
- Ripley
- Scott
- Sullivan
- Warrick
- Washington

Fountain County is the sole county in the State that has a deficit of regional outdoor recreation (OR) acres that is offset by a large enough supply of local acres to equal an adequate supply of total outdoor recreation acreage. Fountain County is ranked 16th in the State for estimated population, has 433 local OR acres (+83) and 575 regional acres (-36) for a total of 1,008 OR acres (+47).

The remaining 35 counties that have an adequate supply of total outdoor recreation acres do so because of State and federal lands within their boundaries. The vast majority of these counties are located in the southern half of Indiana; however, there are a few pockets of adequate total supply in northern regions.

### *Indiana Region Level*

Currently 13 Indiana planning sections (10 ½ regions) meet NRPA/Indiana recommendations for 55 acres of total outdoor recreation acres per 1,000 people. Regions 2, 3B, 4, 6, and 8 do not have enough public outdoor recreation acreage to support their populations (See Table 15). Four of the deficient areas include counties that have a population growth rate higher than the State average and have a major city or cities:

- Region 2: Elkhart and Marshall counties, Elkhart
- Region 3B: Allen and Dekalb counties, Fort Wayne
- Region 4: Tippecanoe and Warren counties, Lafayette
- Region 8: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan counties, Indianapolis





Indiana region - total acres				
Region	PPN 2005*	Recommended		
		55 a/1000	Current	Difference
1A	761,581.00	41,886.96	48,074.09	6,187.14
1B	107,511.00	5,913.11	35,788.38	29,875.28
2	584,539.00	32,149.65	17,100.56	(15,049.09)
3A	188,655.00	10,376.03	40,945.39	30,569.36
3B	447,599.00	24,617.95	8,571.05	(16,046.89)
4	281,917.00	15,505.44	12,795.47	(2,709.96)
5	231,620.00	12,739.10	27,624.24	14,885.14
6	426,714.00	23,469.27	10,937.78	(12,531.49)
7	222,378.00	12,230.79	48,998.67	36,767.88
8	1,588,480.00	87,366.40	32,653.62	(54,712.78)
9	119,108.00	6,550.94	10,931.08	4,380.14
10	144,230.00	7,932.65	86,106.29	78,173.64
11	156,115.00	8,586.33	106,174.95	97,588.63
12	176,326.00	9,697.93	89,087.99	79,390.06
13A	159,100.00	8,750.50	118,990.67	110,240.17
13B	289,809.00	15,939.50	27,348.44	11,408.94
14	262,121.00	14,416.66	75,290.50	60,873.84
15	124,170.00	6,829.35	201,250.16	194,420.81

Table 15. Indiana region outdoor recreation acres-total  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

This indicates that acquisition of new lands and development of new outdoor recreation opportunities have not or are not keeping pace with population growth. Maintaining or improving the balance between outdoor recreation and economic growth, urban sprawl, and environmental or social health can require extensive planning and community organization and involvement. Unfortunately, funding and the amount of time it takes to develop a new site can also affect balance. For example, there have been major additions to the amount of outdoor recreation acreage in Tippecanoe County (e.g., Prophetstown State Park and a proposed 13 miles of ADA trails throughout West Lafayette), but population growth still overrides these tremendous advances.

### State Level

Currently, the Indiana Facility Inventory shows 998,669 acres of outdoor recreation opportunities. This includes every site that is open for public use (excluding school grounds). NRPA/Indiana guidelines recommend 55 acres per 1,000 persons (at this level). With an estimated State population of 6,271,973 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005) current acreage exceeds the recommendation of 344,959 total outdoor recreation acres by 653,711 acres.

### Conclusion of Total Outdoor Recreation Acres

One might think these figures indicate that Indiana is in fine shape, but look back to the original NRPA guidelines. Regional/Metropolitan Park and Regional Park Reserve have a service area defined by driving time. The boundaries of the service area extend beyond a park's physical boundaries. The service area can also overlap into other counties, Indiana regions, or even other States.

Additionally, every park category has a service area limited by population density. For example, if the service area was a perfect circle, and a 200 acre park in downtown Indianapolis was the center of the circle, that park would have a smaller service area (circumference) than a 200 acre park in downtown Fowler (Benton County) because of the population difference.



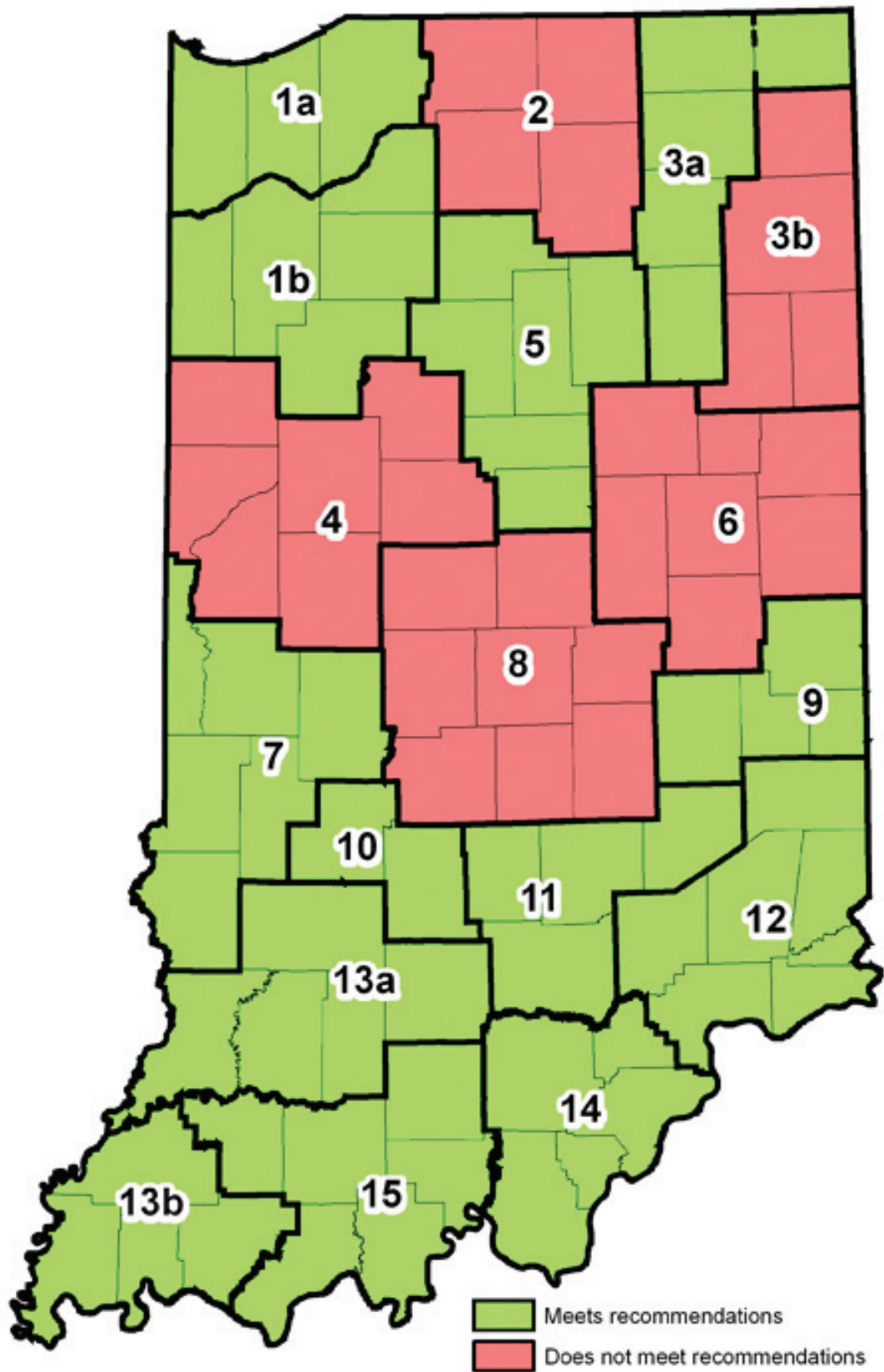


Figure 9. Indiana region outdoor recreation – total  
Recommendation – 55 acres/ 1000 persons



In this SCORP we have simplified the guidelines; however, that does not equate to the State being equally balanced or without problems. A theoretical example, Mounds State Park could have a service area that includes parts of Hancock County, the third-fastest growing county in Indiana (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005). If Anderson, which is closer to Mounds SP, has a population increase, the service area of Mounds would “shrink” to be able to absorb that increase in population density. Since Hancock County is already below standards for outdoor recreation supply, “shrinkage” of Mounds’ service area would have a ripple effect and further increase Hancock County’s shortage.

Our interpretation indicates that the State has adequate acreage; however, service areas of outdoor recreation sites in the southern third of the State do not extend to Lake or Allen counties. Each has a greater than 10,000-acre deficit in outdoor recreation supply. Allen has a population growth rate greater than the State average of 3.1% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2005).

Technological advances make it easier to assess park service areas based on population density; DOR hopes to include these assessments in future SCORPs.

One last thought before moving to the most critical areas in Indiana. Our state ranks 14th in population in the country. The total acreage is 23,307,520. Of that land, 998,669 acres is designated for outdoor recreation. That means Indiana has a mere 4.28% of her land allotted to recreation. The U.S. Census Bureau (2005) reported an estimated average population increase of 3.1% for the State from 2000 to 2005, with an estimated total population of 6,546,000 to 7,158,000 by 2025. The percentage of land for outdoor recreation has increased by 0.41% since 1999. It is evident that Indiana has not kept pace with population growth. As future population growth occurs, the State, regions, counties, municipalities, and townships will need to develop new

outdoor recreation sites to accommodate current and expected deficiencies because our present outdoor recreation supply is not distributed in a manner that serves all areas of the State.

### *Critical Counties and Regions*

DOR also assesses the critical counties (see Fig. 10). The definition of a critical county has changed slightly from the 2000-04 SCORP due to changes in the State’s population growth. The current definition of a critical county is

A county that does not have the recommended outdoor recreation supply acreage of 55 acres per 1,000 population and has a population growth rate that is higher than the 2000-05 population growth rate of 3.1% for the Indiana (as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau).

Note: DOR is in the process of redefining “critical county” to include “degree of need.” For example, Lake and St. Joseph counties, both of which have a total deficit of greater than 10,000 acres, are not currently considered critical counties because of population growth lower than the State average.

Counties that have been determined to be critical counties based on the defined criteria are

- Allen
- Boone
- Dearborn
- Dekalb
- Elkhart
- Hamilton
- Hancock
- Hendricks
- Johnson
- Marshall
- Ohio
- Tippecanoe
- Warren
- Whitley

Tables 16 and 17 show more detailed information regarding local and total outdoor recreation acres in critical counties.





Critical counties - local acres						
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Growth percent	Recommended 20a/1000	Current	Difference
2	Allen	344,006.00	3.70	6,880.12	4,691.23	(2,188.89)
6	Boone	52,061.00	12.90	1,041.22	597.55	(443.67)
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	6.40	981.64	375.00	(606.64)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	3.40	833.18	285.00	(548.18)
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	6.90	3,907.24	3,240.45	(666.79)
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	31.70	4,813.70	2,911.93	(1,901.77)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	14.00	1,262.76	297.20	(965.56)
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	22.50	2,549.66	1,112.73	(1,436.93)
41	Johnson	128,436.00	11.50	2,568.72	1,056.50	(1,512.22)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	4.00	938.90	323.25	(615.65)
58	Ohio	5,874.00	4.50	117.48	55.00	(62.48)
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	3.30	3,077.50	2,765.72	(311.78)
86	Warren	8,785.00	4.30	175.70	46.50	(129.20)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	5.30	646.46	309.50	(336.96)

Table 16. 2006 Critical counties: Outdoor recreation acres-local  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

Critical counties - total acres						
Number	Name	PPN 2005*	Growth percent	Recommended 55 a/1000	Current	Difference
2	Allen	344,006.00	3.70	18,920.33	4,693.73	(14,226.60)
6	Boone	52,061.00	12.90	2,863.36	625.93	(2,237.43)
15	Dearborn	49,082.00	6.40	2,699.51	422.20	(2,277.31)
17	Dekalb	41,659.00	3.40	2,291.25	294.40	(1,996.85)
20	Elkhart	195,362.00	6.90	10,744.91	3,685.40	(7,059.51)
29	Hamilton	240,685.00	31.70	13,237.68	2,912.93	(10,324.74)
30	Hancock	63,138.00	14.00	3,472.59	337.20	(3,135.39)
32	Hendricks	127,483.00	22.50	7,011.57	1,112.73	(5,898.83)
41	Johnson	128,436.00	11.50	7,063.98	6,812.21	(251.77)
50	Marshall	46,945.00	4.00	2,581.98	1,448.10	(1,133.88)
58	Ohio	5,874.00	4.50	323.07	77.29	(245.78)
79	Tippecanoe	153,875.00	3.30	8,463.13	5,950.19	(2,512.93)
86	Warren	8,785.00	4.30	483.18	46.50	(436.68)
92	Whitley	32,323.00	5.30	1,777.77	989.56	(788.20)

Table 17. 2006 Critical counties: Outdoor recreation acres-total  
\*Population, U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

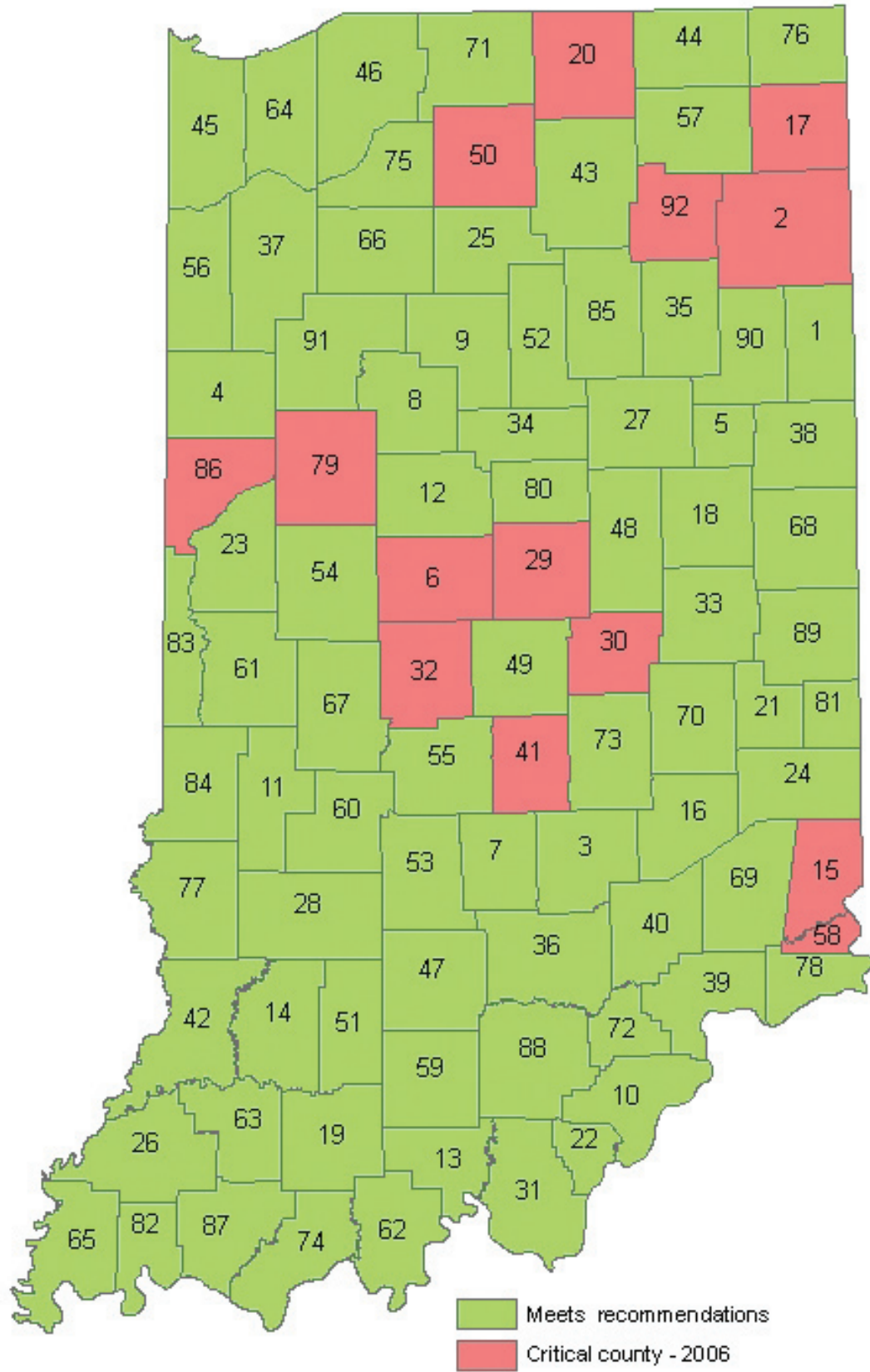


Figure 10. 2006 Critical counties